



Carnaval 53!!

*The Grand Parade Oranjestad*

Feathers and floats; glamour and glitter; these are the words to describe Aruba's final Grand Parade, the last big event of Carnaval 53. The participating groups pulled out all the stops for the march through the streets of Oranjestad, with brilliant colors and sparkle, and likely not a feather left in any store in Aruba. All the best bands on the island blasted out the popular current and past roadmarch songs, and even the singers were resplendent in Carnaval regalia.

The Sunrise group delivered on the promise given by the artistic renderings of their butterfly costumes, and the live realizations of the designer's vision were truly breathtaking and original. Nature was a popular theme with many groups, and they were not the only to feature butterflies, but each group had their own original and beautiful fashion of using this lovely inspiration. Flowers and fauna, the mystery of the Orient and the "Dark Continent" of Africa all provided themes for the imaginative costumes and floats that paraded down L.G. Smith Boulevard on Sunday. Certainly deserving of most original was the Los Laga Bai group with their "Cascabel Fortuna" costumes, replicating the design on Aruba's twenty-five florin note in celebration of the group's Silver Jubilee of Carnaval participation.

It was another memorable Grand Parade, with beautiful make-up, fantastic floats and roadpieces, stunning costumes and lively music, which had participants and spectators alike dancing in the streets!